

GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting, held in the Port of Grays Harbor Commission Chambers, Aberdeen, was called to order by Chairman Jim Sorensen at 6:30 p.m. Attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

➤ Members:

- City Councilmember Holly Placket (City of Ocean Shores)
- City Councilmember Tim Alstrom (City of Aberdeen)
- City Councilmember Robert Parnell (City of Westport)
- Mayor Jasmine Dickhoff (City of Hoquiam)
- City Councilmember Carl Sperring (City of Cosmopolis)
- Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
- Mayor Brent Schiller (City of McCleary)
- City Councilmember Dan Wood (City of Montesano)
- General Manager Ken Mehin (Grays Harbor Transit)
- Stephanie Reece (Timberland Library)
- Commissioner Chuck Caldwell (Port of Grays Harbor)
- Commissioner Russ Skolrood (Grays Harbor PUD)

➤ Staff:

- Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
- Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator

➤ Guests:

- Theresa Turpin, WSDOT Multimodal Development Manager

A quorum was established.

3. GHCOG BUSINESS

➤ **Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Carl Sperring made a motion to approve; second, Jasmine Dickhoff. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of February 2018 Minutes**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the February 2018 Minutes.

Carl Sperring made a motion to approve; second, Jasmine Dickhoff. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, reported that March claims and March payroll were reviewed and approved.

➤ **Action: Approval of March Claims Batch #18-03 and March Payroll**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the March Claims, Batch #18-03 in the amount of \$16,408.07 and March 2018 Payroll in the amount of \$14,712.08.

Tim Alstrom made a motion to approve; second, Jasmine Dickhoff. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **Discussion: 2018 Annual Meeting Arrangements**

Vicki made the recommendation that we start to plan our annual meeting now, as restaurant and catering options are limited and are booking a year in advance. Upon further discussion there was agreement to check into catering the 2018 annual dinner meeting and holding the event at our current location. We will continue discussing the Annual Meeting arrangements at our April meeting.

Jasmine Dickhoff made a motion to approve; second, Ken Mehin. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Discussion: New Standing Agenda Item – Member Action Request**

GHCOG will be adding a new agenda item in April for “Member Action Requests”. GHCOG has been receiving requests from members during “member comment” for letters of support. Being that those are formal requests we do not want them to get lost in the minutes. Plus, formal requests from members should go out in the GHCOG meeting packet. If you have a formal request that you would like included on the GHCOG agenda please send it to us at least a week before the GHCOG meeting.

4. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

None

5. **ALL- STAFF REPORT**

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- SWRTPO meeting at Satsop was well attended.
- Thank you for completing our requests for transportation projects to be included in the Regional Transportation Plan update.
- Working on yearly report and close out of the Unified Planning Work Program.
- Gave presentation on GHCOG to Rotary, Port of Grays Harbor and Oakville.
- Working with GGHI on Opportunity Zone designations.

➤ **Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator**

- Attended Heron Street bridge replacement meeting.
- Submitted an EV charging location proposal to Electrify America.
- Submitted the Annual Report to the State Auditor.
- Making final edits to the Montesano Park Plan.

6. MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Timberland Library, Stephanie Reece
 - Provided members with the 2017 Annual Report.
 - Allison Grubbs took the position as Public Services Manager.
 - Aberdeen will be hiring a new Library Manager.

- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Holly Plackett
 - The loss of councilmember Robert Crumpacker is a shock, he will be missed.
 - Preparing for the Razor Clam Festival.
 - Had a staff and council retreat at Seabrook.
 - Looking at technology, as a solution to possible staffing issues.
 - Pt. Brown project is lively.
 - Hospital Commissioner gave a quarterly report at OS Council Meeting.
 - OS has a homeless ad hoc committee formed by the school board.

- Grays Harbor Transit, General Manager Ken Mehin
 - Putting finishing touches on the summer schedule.
 - Hiring three more operators.
 - Youth Pass, for 18 and under, is \$20 for entire summer session.
 - Started union negotiations.
 - Bids are in for the bus barn.
 - The Ferry fieldtrip was very informative.

- Port of Grays Harbor, Commissioner Chuck Caldwell
 - Lots of VW's being stored at the Port, 2 year contract.
 - Going to Florida and Washington DC with Gary for meetings.

- City of Hoquiam, Mayor Jasmine Dickhoff
 - Utility light replacement is going well.
 - Completed the Rainier Street Pump Station.
 - Met w/Kilmer's Aid and the City of Aberdeen.
 - \$2.5 million for Fry Creek permitting and design w/ no match funds required.
 - Discussing stricter slumlord ordinances with the council.
 - Looking into doing "active shooter" drills at the schools.
 - Mayor and Council are still in disagreement over the utility fees.

- City of Montesano, City Councilmember Dan Wood
 - Awarded a 3rd of the funding needed for the wastewater from capital budget.
 - Looking at solutions for the wastewater plant has the city considering worms.
 - Have projects going at Fleet Park, Pioneer Ave and Marcy Ave.
 - Changed roundabout title to SR12/SR107 Improvements to allow other alternatives.
 - Abatements are a new focus/challenge for the city.
 - Thanks to GHCOG for working on the city's park plan.
 - Working on a critical area update this year.

- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
 - Complaints about the train “sitting idle” have increased.
 - Eagles Landing continues to expand/increase tenants.
 - No findings from the State Auditor.
 - 2017 ending fund balance was 10%, which was higher than estimated.
 - 5 new housing permits in 2018.
 - Mayor’s meeting on homelessness has spurred interest in forming a coalition.
 - City is grappling with abatement issues as well.
 - City is also looking into forming at TBD.

- City of Westport, City Councilmember Robert Parnell
 - Thanks to COG members for Tsunami Tower letter of support.
 - Evening clam tide this Saturday, March 17th and more to come in April.
 - Kevin attended the Ferry group outing.
 - Working with legislature for city to get a share of the state landing tax.
 - Department of Ecology is doing a program to look at the beneficial uses of dredged sand, one possibly being to abate erosion.

- City of McCleary, Mayor Brett Schiller
 - Working on permits for the mental health facility.
 - Still working with DNR on possible ATV trails and access.
 - Discussing TBD at council meetings, but still undecided.
 - Comp Plan should get approved at this month’s council meeting.
 - Bear Festival fundraiser on March 17th at the VFW.
 - Hiring a new police officer.
 - 3rd street project went to ad.

- City of Aberdeen, Councilmember Tim Alstrom
 - Levee project received funding for design engineering from the capital budget.
 - Flood insurance premiums increased.
 - Interviewing for a new police chief.
 - Passed an ordinance to hire a City Administrator and hired head hunting firm.
 - Continue to work on the homelessness issues.

- City of Cosmopolis, Councilmember Carl Sperring
 - Cosmopolis is hosting a reserve police academy.
 - A few more housing permits have come in.

- Grays Harbor PUD, Commissioner Russ Skolrood
 - Received money in the capital budget to run fiber to Elma.
 - Carbon Tax died in senate.
 - Looking at starting back up the PUD citizens’ academy.

- WSDOT, Theresa Turpin
 - Held the kick-off meeting with the Heron Street predesign Stakeholders.
 - Meet with Mike at Five Star prior to stakeholder meeting.
 - Next predesign meeting will be held on April 11th.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
115 S. Wooding St.
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

Jim Sorensen
Chairman

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date